

GIGANTIC BANK SWINDLE

The Shoe and Leather Institution Is Plundered of \$354,000.

SUICIDE FOLLOWS DISCOVERY

Bookkeeper Seely and Depositor Frederick Baker Pray Upon the Bank for Ten Years Taking \$200 at a Time--Seely Supposed to Have Sailed.

By the United Press.

New York, Nov. 25. The National Shoe and Leather bank at Broadway and Chambers street has been robbed of \$354,000 by Samuel C. Seely, one of its bookkeepers, and Frederick Baker, a depositor.

Seely fled a week ago Saturday, leaving a confession in his lawyer's hands. It is supposed that he fled by steamship.

Baker was drowned yesterday afternoon at his country home at Sand's Point. There is of course a strong suggestion of suicide. Baker, who was a supposedly wealthy and respectable lawyer in this city, past 60 years of age, had told his accomplice before the latter's flight that he was too old to run away himself and would stay and face the music. It is alleged by Seely that Baker got all but \$11,000 of the stolen \$354,000.

Baker was drowned from a rowboat in Long Island Sound just in front of his country home. His two sons were out on the Sound gunning, and he entered a boat ostensibly to row out after them to see what luck they were having. He never reached them, and when about 1 o'clock the sons started for home they found their father's body floating face upward on the water beside his overturned skiff. They towed it ashore, and as there had been, so far as known, no witnesses of the drowning, and the news of Mr. Baker's implication in the Shoe and Leather bank robbery had not become publicly known, the coroner's jury found that the death was accidental.

Hundred Accounts Tampered With. The thefts have extended over a period of nearly ten years, and were accomplished by means of fictitious balances, false credits, and corresponding debits entered in the ledger. Seely tampered with more than 100 accounts, it is believed, and credited the money debited upon Baker's account, and the money was drawn out of the bank by Baker. The bank officers had the utmost confidence in Seely, who was a quiet, home-going man, and the treasurer of the United States Guaranty company, which was Seely's surety, said, when told of his defection: "There was not a man in the bank about whom we felt safer than about Seely." Baker had been a depositor in the bank more than twenty years.

The stealing might have gone on for an indefinite time had not the bank officers decided to institute a new system of bookkeeping. The new system was to be put in operation on Thursday last, and Seely knew it. The business of the bank was moving on in the usual routine on Friday, Nov. 16, when Seely asked for a day's leave of absence. He was tired of living in Brooklyn, he said, and wanted to go out and look for a country home. His request was granted, and on Saturday another bookkeeper was put at his work.

Seely had had charge of ledger A to K. The accounts, of course, had to be gone over every day. Seely's subterfuge soon reported to President Crane that he could not make them balance. He was told to try again, for Seely's reputation was so good that no suspicion was aroused in the officers' minds at first. But the confusion of the accounts could not be untangled, and when, on Monday morning, Seely did not appear at the bank, the officers went to work at once on his books and found them hopelessly confounded. That money had been taken fraudulently from the bank soon became apparent, but how the books had been muddled was a puzzle, so elaborate the system of falsification had been.

On Tuesday the directors were convened and they were in almost continuous session until yesterday evening. The bank force worked day and night on the accounts and on the pass books, which had all been called in. On Wednesday the amount of the defalcation was found to be \$354,000.

Left a Confession When He Flew.

When Seely failed to appear at the bank on Monday morning the bank officers sent to his house, 42 Halsey street, Brooklyn, to inquire for him. He was not at home, and had not been at home since Friday, and the messengers were referred to Frank W. Angel, his attorney and confidential adviser. Mr. Angel has offices at 108 Fulton street and lives in Jersey City.

"Mr. Angel told us," said Vice President George L. Pease yesterday afternoon, "that Seely had seen exposure coming and had confessed his predicament and asked for advice. 'Do you want advice from me in this?' said the lawyer. 'Well, go and blow your brains out.'"

"What Seely did," Mr. Pease continued, "we know nothing about. He may have chosen Saturday to look for his 'country home' because it was the day that the steamers sail, or he may be within thirty minutes of this office now. Sometimes we think he is. But we hope to get his accomplice, the depositor."

Seely told Mr. Angel that from the large sum stolen he intended to pay to the extent of only \$11,000, the depositor getting the remainder of it.

Seely lived in Halsey street with his wife and one child. He is or was--38 years old, and loved to stay at home. He was not a club man. He was a pewholder in the Rev. Dr. Behrends' church, but was not an active member of the church. His brother-in-law, who is also a bookkeeper in the Shoe and Leather bank, said yesterday that Seely was a man of quiet life without known vices, and that no suspicion had ever attached to him. He was not known to speculate, and his property consisted, the brother-in-law said, of a half interest in the \$5,000 home in Halsey street.

Seely's salary was \$1,800. He had been employed in the bank since 1883, and the United States Guaranty company was on his bond for \$7,500.

The system of bookkeeping in use at the Shoe and Leather bank was a modern one of daily ledger balances, which was complete in its record, and a skeleton ledger. The skeleton ledger was intended to show to the bank's officers at a glance the daily balances, and it was also to give the bookkeeper instant information for the benefit of the paying teller when a check was presented.

WANT AN HONEST BALLOT

Strong, Non-Sectional Federal Election Law Is Needed.

THE FORCE BILL IMPROVED

More Effective Legislation with the Same Purpose--If the South Is Most Affected by Such a Law, It Is Because It Has Most Offended.

By the United Press.

Washington, Nov. 25.--The experience of the recent election in a number of southern states, notably in Alabama and the contests which will necessarily be brought before congress, raise into new importance the adoption of election laws that will insure fairness at the polls and in the count. A "prominent Republican" is quoted in a local paper as saying that the next house will conduct a Lexow investigation on a national scale under a committee of its ablest members, and with a thoroughness that will leave nothing to be desired. The investigation will not be partisan or sectional, but directed to the correction of abuses and guarding the national elections against undue interference and fraudulent practices.

What is needed is a broad, liberal law, which will insure full protection to every qualified voter in casting his ballot, and which will also guard the ballot box against dishonesty in ascertaining and proclaiming the result of the popular verdict.

Faults of the Force Bill.

"The Force bill, as that measure was known," said the authority alluded to, "was really of no force. A more immediate measure for the accomplishment of a great purpose was never brought forward in congress. That came to be generally confessed. Whatever the new measure may be, it will not be a copy of the so-called Force bill. It should be something better than that; something simpler and drawn so as to defeat the cry, which, however, is certain to be raised under any circumstance of sectionalism. If the south should be more effected by the bill than other sections of the country, it will only be for the reason that the evil sought to be corrected prevails to a greater degree there than elsewhere. The bill must be made applicable to all sections and to all states."

"The better element in the southern states deplores the conditions surrounding suffrage there. Right thinking men of the south see that great harm is accruing to their section from the prevalence of such a state of affairs. Many of the men who assisted to establish terrorism and cheating at the polls are anxious to have them stopped. They excuse their former action on the score of extreme necessity. The negro, they declare, as led by carpet baggers, was a menace to property rights and good government. The negro is no longer a menace. Both parties are now led by native whites, and the danger is that all the votes be fairly counted. The trouble lies in this: What was organized and put in force by all the property holders, acting as they claimed, in defense of property and personal security, is now being continued by rings of politicians, whose only aim is office and local political supremacy. The men who live by politics want the cheating to go on. The men who have the real interests of the south at heart want it stopped. The Republican party will make an effort to stop it."

WALKER'S CURRENCY SCHEME.

It Proposes to Take Gold the Basis of Circulation.

By the United Press. Washington, Nov. 25.--Of the financial schemes discussed by those congressmen who have reached the city, that of Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, is prominent. Walker proposes that to banks shall deposit gold on which to base their circulation, and shall have issued to them, dollar for dollar, notes for circulation, making these deposits of gold take the place of the bonds now required by the national laws as security.

Speaking of this project Mr. O'Neill, of the same state, a Democrat, said: "It doesn't make any difference about it, in my judgment, the very best that has been presented, and this congress should not hesitate a minute about doing it. If the Democrats do not adopt it this session, I feel confident that the Republicans will at the next. This plan, instead of increasing the public debt, would ultimately wipe out the interest-bearing obligations and retire the greenbacks."

"But a small per cent. of the gold thus deposited with the government is reserved for redemption purposes and the rest is kept in circulation by being used for the retirement of bonds and greenbacks, or for any other purposes which the needs of the government demand. In a general way the proposition is to have an abundant currency based on coin, and to keep all the money in motion, so as to have it earn its own living, instead of being locked up, mouldy and useless, in the treasury vaults."

THE NEW ELIDORADO.

A Veritable Bonanza Gold Mine Discovered in Washington.

Editor of The Tribune: Spokane, Wash., Nov. 25.--Michael Shuman, a well known mining man, returned yesterday from his mines in the Okonagon district. He reports the find of a veritable bonanza gold mine at the very summit of the Cascade range of mountains near Slate Creek. Two young men from Anacortes named Barron and Garrison are the lucky finders. Shuman says that the boys, after a week's work with the crudest of implements, have cleaned up \$12,000 worth of the same rich dirt in sight.

Nearly all the miners in that section of the country have flocked to the new Eldorado and staked out claims.

SWINDLED LUCINDA.

Holmes Owes Mrs. Burns, of Detroit, a Two Dollar Board Bill.

By the United Press. Detroit, Mich., Nov. 25.--The Detroit police were last night asked to lock up Mrs. Lucinda Burns and ascertain whether she had in her possession the two children of Pitzel, whom the insurance swindler, H. H. Holmes, confessed yesterday afternoon to Philadelphia police that he had left with Mrs.

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BURNS WHILE IN CITY OCT. 12. The woman was found in a cheap boarding house on Congress street.

Mrs. Burns said she had had charge of the Pitzel children for several weeks. Three weeks ago, however, Holmes came to the city and took them away, she knows not where, at the same time beating her out of a \$2 board bill.

AN HEIRESS IN PRISON.

Mrs. Adelaide Featherstone Pleads Guilty to the Crime of Larceny.

By the United Press. Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 25.--Mrs. Adelaide Featherstone, of Philadelphia, who is said to be the heiress to a fortune, is an inmate of the house of correction, where she is serving a six months sentence for larceny. Last Thursday, after languishing in the county jail for four months awaiting trial, she pleaded guilty. It is said she took this action in preference to requesting aid from her wealthy relatives, being more willing to undergo imprisonment than to allow her people to learn of her disgrace.

It is believed the woman could have escaped conviction if she had demanded a trial, and it is thought that even if she was convicted a fine instead of imprisonment would have been the penalty inflicted, but being without funds she decided to plead guilty and suffer the consequences. Mrs. Featherstone is the wife of a son of the late General Featherstone, of Philadelphia.

ROYAL FAMILY SQUABBLE.

Grand Duke Vladimir's Wife Gives Prince Alex a Piece of Her Mind.

By the United Press. Berlin, Nov. 25.--The removal of the Grand Duke Vladimir from St. Petersburg to the Caucasus is regarded as the result of a family squabble. The grand duke's wife, Mecklenburg princess, never embraced the orthodox Greek faith and she reproached the Princess Alix with protestant energy for antagonizing her religion. The scene between the two jarred the whole imperial circle.

There was a prospect of further unpleasantness if the grand duchess should remain at court, so the czar arranged to keep her and her husband at a distance.

BULLETS IN THEIR BRAINS.

Jacob Mohow and Kate Doman Chief Actors in a Tragedy.

By the United Press. Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 25.--A terrible tragedy was discovered in the southern part of this city this morning in a house on Woodward street, occupied by Jacob Mohow and his mistress, Mrs. Kate Doman. The dead body of Mohow and the unconscious body of the woman were found with bullets in their brains. The supposition is that Mohow shot the woman and then committed suicide.

The woman was still alive this evening, but there is no hope of her recovery. Mohow was 57 years of age and a veteran of the late war. The woman was some years his junior.

HURLED FROM A BRIDGE.

Tragic Death of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Taylor and Miss Kidwell.

By the United Press. Cumberland, Md., Nov. 25.--This morning at 9 o'clock a terrible accident occurred at Green Springs, W. Va., eighteen miles east of this place, resulting in the death of Isaac Taylor, aged 60 years; his wife, aged 58, and Miss Kidwell, aged 17 years. They were crossing the South Branch bridge on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, when the train struck the three and hurled them into the river below, a distance of fifty feet, killing them instantly.

The engineer said he did not see them until he was within two car lengths of them, and then it was impossible to stop the train.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE CRAZE.

By the United Press. Worcester, Mass., Nov. 25.--Daniel McTiernan, aged 74, while playing foot ball yesterday was fallen upon by one of his companions. He went home feeling dizzy. When his father went to call him this morning he was dead.

CABLE CULLINGS.

The massacre laid in Armenia numbered 2,000. Brigands raided the village of Ghanabek, Italy, and three were killed. At the Vatican there is no knowledge of an intention to supplant Mr. Satolli.

In a raid on the Albert club, the chief betting establishment in London, police captured ninety persons.

Miss Davenport Hill defeated the Duke of Newcastle by 8,000 plurality for member of the London school board.

Dr. J. B. de Ploia, councillor of the Swiss legation in Rome, has been appointed Swiss minister to Washington.

Cesar Nicholas created an excellent impression at the council of state by his grasp of affairs and ability to talk.

Chief of Police Wahl, of St. Petersburg, has been imprisoned by the czar for treating foreign newspaper reporters with disrespect.

On his wedding day the czar will issue manifestos remitting arrears of taxes and some sentences and recording other acts of clemency.

Judge Wiedemann, who was sent on a mission to England by ex-Queen Liljuekalma, has departed in disgust. He was badly snubbed.

Large parades in honor of the executed Fenians were held in Cork and Limerick yesterday. The mayor of Limerick presided over a memorial meeting of 5,000 persons.

The Socialist deputy, Ferri, has been expelled from Mantua for seventy-five days for belonging to a revolutionary society. Several other deputies will probably be prosecuted.

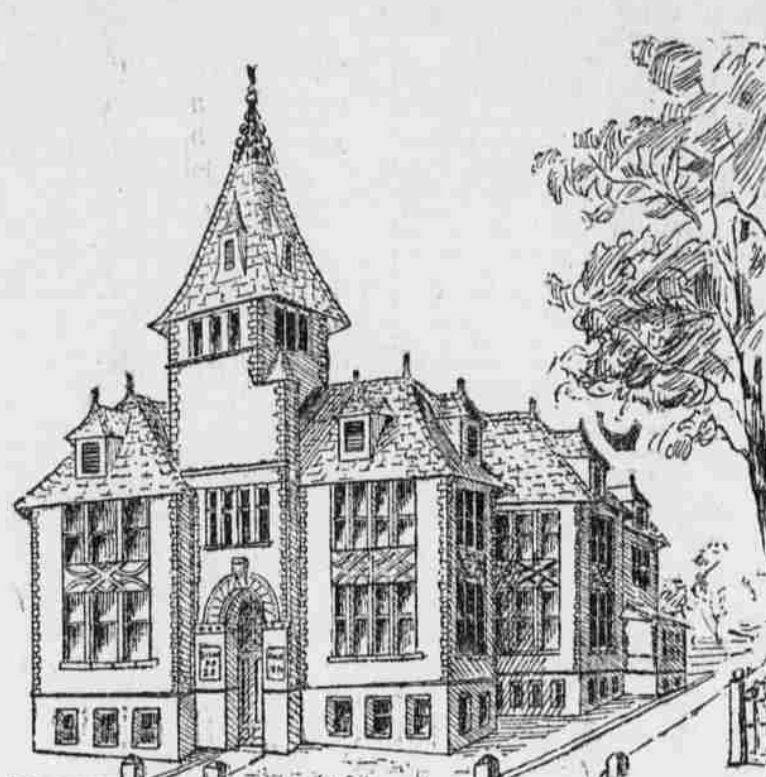
A waylaid inn near Bergedorf, Germany, was burned last night. Three bodies were found. An one had been beheaded, murder and robbery are supposed to have preceded the fire.

An uprising of Kanakas is reported in progress on the islands near New Guinea. Scores of Europeans are said to have been murdered and great loss of trading posts to have been burned.

The captain of the steamship Three Cheers found fresh traces of cannibal feasts on Admiralty Island and at New Ireland. He believes that every white person in New Ireland was killed.

Several earthquakes shook large districts of Sicily yesterday. The small villages of Sciar, Samperi, Milia, Acquafredda and San Roberto were destroyed. The homeless inhabitants have camped in the fields.

A snow storm dampened the ardor of the suffrage demonstration at Vienna yesterday. Groups of workmen paraded the Ring strasse shouting for universal suffrage. Most persons not directly interested in the agitation remained in doors.



The New West Side School.

BATTLE OF PORT ARTHUR.

Marshall Oyama's Great Victory Over the Chinese--Eighty Guns and an Immense Quantity of Rice Captured.

By the United Press. London, Nov. 25.--The Port Arthur correspondent of the Central News sends this dispatch: "Marshall Oyama had approached Port Arthur steadily for two weeks with his army in two divisions. Progress was slow and difficult, and the roads, where there were any, were poor, and the artillery could be brought forward only after the prisoners had prepared the way. The villages were almost empty of supplies. Many of them had been plundered bare by the Chinese."

"Skirmishing began on Nov. 17. On the evening of the 21st the Chinese still held eight or nine redoubts on the coast and had twenty guns in working order. The Japanese bivouacked on the hills. Early on the morning of Nov. 22 they began storming the redoubts. They captured Fort Laoma after a sharp, short fight. The other positions were captured in quick succession without heavy losses to the Japanese. Eighty guns and an enormous quantity of rice were taken. It was wholly a land fight. The course of events was signalled to the Japanese fleet off the coast."

BRAVERY OF A WOMAN.

She Warns Train Officials of a Contemplated Hold Up.

By the United Press. Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 25.--A plan to hold up the east-bound train on the Kansas and Arkansas Valley road by the Cook gang Friday night was discovered and frustrated by the railroad officials. When the train reached a siding near Fort Gibson it was flagged by a woman, who had run five miles to warn it of a hold up, which had been planned. Twenty-five armed men had taken possession of a station house.

The wife of the section boss eluded the watchfulness of the gang and resolved to save the train. She ran to the next station and gave the alarm. Armed men were placed on board and the train pulled slowly by the section house, where the bandits were concealed, but no attempt to hold up the train was made. The bandits discovered that their plans were known.

BUFORD IS SANE.

Will Be Returned to Florida, Where He Will Stand Trial for Murder.

By the United Press. Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 25.--United States Marshal McKay received instructions yesterday from Attorney General Olney to remove to Washington after R. E. Buford, who murdered a deputy United States marshal in Sumner county last year, and who was declared insane and sent to the National Insane asylum.

Ruford has been declared sane by the authorities of the asylum and will be brought back to stand trial. He was also indicted for sending obscene matter through the mails, but got off on the insanity plea.

ESCAPE FROM MAHDIISTS.

Father Rossignoli, Who Was Captured Years Ago, Returns from Khartoum.

By the United Press. Cairo, Nov. 25.--Father Rossignoli, who was captured by the Mahdists in 1883 and until recently was held prisoner by them in Omdurman, arrived here today.

He repeated the story of his escape with an Arab after he had been allowed to go to Khartoum for his health. He wandered along the river by night, he says, and hid in the hills by day. He was employed as a waiter in a cafe during the last years of his residence in Omdurman.

DEATH OF THOMAS COONEY.

Former Resident of Pittston Killed on the Railroad.

By the United Press. Richmond, Va., Nov. 25.--Thomas H. Cooney, of Pittston, Pa., was found dead on the tracks of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Petersburg railroad today, a few miles north of this city. He was a passenger on the early train from Richmond to Washington.

Cooney was a brother of the well known railroad superintendent of that name at Pittston, Pa.

THIEF'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT.

Division Street Residence Entered While the Family Was in Church.

While the family was attending church last evening a sneak thief entered the house of Morgan P. Daniels on Division street and succeeded in making away with jewelry and a few articles of clothing. The marauder has not been captured.

Entrance to the house was made through a rear window. The house was ransacked and a desk belonging to Mr. Daniels' son was broken open.

FINLEY'S

ANOTHER SPECIAL WEEK IN OUR

DRESS GOODS

DEPARTMENT.

It being our intention not to carry over a piece of Dress Goods that we can turn into cash, we make the following quotations,

FOR THIS WEEK ONLY

ONE LOT fine all wool mixed Suits, former price, \$5.00. This Week's Price \$2.50 a Suit.

ONE LOT extra fine Silk and Wool Scotch Suits. Special price for This Week \$3.25 a Suit.

ONE LOT 52-inch Covert Cloth, extra quality. Former prices, \$1.00. This Week 75c.

ANOTHER LOT, the last of the season, of our special Foreign Cashmere in 40 and 46-inch. The price This Week Will Be 35c. and 45c.

Interesting prices on Fine Black Dress Goods.

See our Velvetina Cords for Dress and Coat Sleeves; also in Cream for Babies' Cloaks.

Fine German 50-inch Seal Plush.

FINLEY'S

610 and 612 Lackawanna Ave.

H. A. KINGSBURY

AGENT FOR

CHAS. A. SCHIEREN & CO.'S

LEATHER BELTING

THE VERY BEST.

313 SPRUCE ST., SCRANTON, PA.

LEWIS, REILLY & DAVIES

We will have wet weather. We will furnish you with SHOES for wet weather. It will be a beautiful investment.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies

114 Wyoming Avenue.

HOLIDAY : GOODS

I HAVE just returned from New York buying Holiday Goods. We are receiving them daily.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to call and see our fine line of Jewelry and Novelties, whether you buy or not.

N. B.--Look at our show windows as you pass.

W. J. WEICHEL

408 SPRUCE STREET, NEAR DIME BANK.